Sale of Public Sector Drug Industry

563. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total drug trade sales of the country in absolute terms during 1984-85;

(b) what was the share of the public sector units therein; and

(c) whether it was commensurate with the size of their investments?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) In 1984-85, the retail trade sales of formulations are of the order of Rs. 1120 crores. Of this, sales by M/s. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited are about Rs. 25 crores.

(c) There is need to improve the trade sales of Public Sector Companies.

Drug Production Target

564. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Annual Report of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertiliezrs and the Annual Report of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) project diametrically opposite views in regard to the state of the drug industry; and

(b) whether the target of drug production as set forth in the Sixth Five Year Plan has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The OPPI is an industry Association whose views are not necessary to be identical with those of this Ministry.

(b) The revised sixth plan production targets for 1984-85 were Rs. 500 crores and Rs. 1950 crores for bulk drugs & formulations respectively. In 1984-85, the value of production at constant 1979-80 prices, is estimated to be Rs. 377 crores and Rs. 1827 crores for bulk drugs and formulations respectively.

Pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts

565. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of cases pending for over (i) ten years, (ii) five years and (iii) three years in various High Courts and what is the number of cases pending for the last over three years in the Supreme Court;

(b) what measures the Government are taking to clear the mounting backlog of cases in various High Courts of the country and the Supreme Court;

(c) whether Government are considering any increase in the strength of judges, both additional and permanent, in various High Courts and the Supreme Court and if so, the number of judges to be appointed in various High Courts, and the Supreme Court; and

(d) what other steps, if any, are being considered and taken to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) Information as furnished by the Registries of Supreme Court and High Courts is given in attached statement I.

(b) and (d) Steps taken to reduce pendency in Supreme Court and High Courts are given in the attached Statement II.

(c) The matter regarding filling up all the existing vacancies and further increasing the judge strength of various High Courts and the Supreme Court is engaging the attention of the Government.

Statement-I

Name of the Court	Number of cases pending over three years (As on 1-6-1985)
Supreme Court (Regular hearing matters)	18,109

Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending over		
	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
	(As on 31-12-1984)		
1. Allahabad	89,282	42,646	4,720
2. Andhra Pradesh	18,115	4,349	..
3. Bombay	38,633	18,428	1,944
4. Delhi	24,090	13,196	3,552
5. Gujarat	18,975	4,867	47
6. Himachal Pradesh	3,756	2,311	297
7. Jammu and Kashmir	8,183	3,401	283
8. Karnataka	26,432	8,691	33
9. Kerala	13,293	922	1
10. Madhya Pradesh	10,128	5,054	909
11. Madras	31,830	8,059	12
12. Orissa	7,579	2,898	156
13. Patna	20,484	9,593	1,575
14. Punjab and Haryana	12,043	5,807	65
15. Rajasthan	17,692	9,013	1,040
16. Sikkim			
	(As on 30-6-1984)		
17. Calcutta	71,915	45,069	11,342
	(As on 31-12-1983)		
18. Gauhati	4,974	2,641	238

Statement-II

Steps taken from time to time to reduce penpency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in Supreme Court and High Courts:

(1) The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in second appeal (Vide Section 100A).

(2) The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

(3) The Judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 13 to 17 excluding the Chief Justice with effect from 31-12-77 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

(4) The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 424 on 1st July, 1985.

(5) The Supreme Court rules have been amended to vest more powers in the Registrars and Judges in Chambers so that the time of the court is not wasted in petty miscellaneous matters.

(6) The Supreme Court has also taken the following measures:

(i) Priority is given to certain matters;

(ii) Miscellaneous matters are fixed daily;

(iii) Writ petitioners with identical questions are grouped together and batches running from 50 to 100 matters are listed together for hearing;

(iv) Other matters involving identical questions are also identified from time to time and put together and efforts are made to see that such groups are disposed of early;

(v) The Supreme Court Rules were revised in 1966 providing for printing of records under its own supervision. As that was also taking quite some time the court of late has started wherever possible dispensing with the preparation of records and hearing the appeals on special leave paper-book itself after the parties have filed their counter-affidavits and affidavits in reply.

(7) Apart from the above certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts.

(b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates.

(c) Dispensing with printing of records.

(d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.

(8) The Government have also addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in which there is a heavy pendency of civil cases over 5 years' old to consider appointment of retired judges under Article 224A of the Constitution.

(9) The recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendatiins is to be taken by the State Governments and High Courts, these have been sent to them along with the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

(10) The Government have also appointed Law Commission (10th Law Commission) to keep under

review the system of judicial administration in the country. Among the terms of reference of the Law Commission are:

(a) To keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the time and in particular to secure;

(i) elimination of delays, speedy clearance of arrears and reduction of costs so as to secure quick and economical disposal of cases without affecting the cardinal principle that decisions should be just and fair;

(ii) simplification of procedure to reduce and eliminate technicalities and devices for delay so that it operates not as an end in itself but as a means of achieving justice; and

(iii) improvement of standards of all concerned with the administration of justice.

(b) To revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequalities.

(c) To recommend to the Government measures for bringing the statute book-up-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

(11) The Government have constituted an informal Committee of 3 Chief Justices to examine the problem of arrears in High Courts and suggest remedial measures .

Introducing computer technology in courts

566. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce computer technology in the State High Courts and Supreme Court of India for speedying up the work and disposal of cases;

(b) if so, what immediate tasks are to be allotted to the computers;

(c) whether Government are also considering a proposal to introduce tapes for recording statements and also use other mechanical devices like photo copying, telex facilities, microfilming and also propose to set up a research, information and development department; and

(d) whether Government have consulted legal and technical experts and High Courts and Supreme Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

Judicial Reforms Commission

567. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a judicial commission; if so, what will be its terms of reference;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce a system of conciliation to clear the backlog of cases and help in quick disposal; and

(c) if so, what will be the form of the conciliation machinery?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir. The terms of reference of the proposed Commission are under consideration.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal to introduce a system of conciliation to clear the backlog of cases and help in quick disposal. However, the Family Courts Act has been enacted with a view to settling